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SOVIETS RESUME NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS: U.S. FOLLOWS

The Soviet resumption of nuclear weapons tests deserves to be condemned by all peace-loving people. Khrushchev's statement that he did it in order to prod the United States into arriving at an agreement at Geneva will convince none but the already converted. "The resumption of testing without international consent or control," said leaders of the World Council of Churches, "will surely accelerate the armaments race, increase the risk of war, and affect the health of present and future generations."

It is a foregone conclusion that the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace and its satellite counterparts will not protest the action of the Soviet dictator. This will be left to an American, Earle Reynolds, who in 1958 protested against U.S. bomb tests and is now readying his ship, the *Phoenix*, for another "forbidden voyage" -- this time into the Soviet port of Vladivostok.

The U.S. Government's protests at the Soviet action will carry much less weight if it carries out its announced intention to resume tests also. The world will soon forget who did it first, and another opportunity to seize the moral initiative will have been missed.

Meanwhile in Berlin, where the East-West conflict is still most sharply focused, Communist police have used fire hoses, tear gas and firecrackers against jeering crowds on the Western side of the sector boundary. In at least one instance, American GIs have retaliated by lobbing tear-gas grenades into Communist territory.

More fuel is being added to the fire by the boosting of work norms for East German workers. In 1953, similar moves set off a revolt that threatened to unseat the Communist regime -- a revolt that was crushed by Soviet tanks while the U.S. sat tight on its nuclear stockpile.

If a revolt comes, will U.S. troops move against Soviet troops, risking "limited" war that could quickly become nuclear and unlimited? Will the U.S. sit back and let such a revolt be crushed? There is no indication that any other alternatives are under consideration in Washington.

Each side, in its own way, is playing with fire. Neither has closed the door on negotiations, but both are talking tough, and neither is likely to be cowed by the other's threats.

Neutralist leaders have urged Khrushchev and Kennedy to join in summit talks. If such talks occur, however, they will be of no avail unless both sides come prepared to yield in order

(Continued on next page)

European Peace Trip--1962

FOR-sponsored and directed peace seminar to Europe via chartered plane, for members only. Five weeks starting about August 1, 1962. Choice of one or two peace seminars, meeting major peace leaders in England and the Continent, plus sightseeing, etc., at very low rates. Adult and youth groups, accompanied by national staff members. Descriptive brochure ready October 1. Write for it at FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y. and prepare now for the peace event of your life.

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Soviets Resume Testing *(cont'd)*

that both may gain. The prospects are not bright -- but there was a time when reunification of Austria also seemed impossible. At Berlin, the stakes are higher; the problem cannot be solved short of establishing peace in Central Europe.

Groups Protest Nuclear Tests by U. S., USSR

More than 2,000 people participated in a rally at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in New York on Sept. 14 protesting the resumption of nuclear tests by the U.S. and USSR. The rally, sponsored by the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, had as its slogan "We Want to Live." Speakers, including Norman Thomas, spoke on the general topic of "Berlin, the Bomb and Testing." Following the rally, the group joined in a march to the UN where they held a silent torch-light vigil.

In downtown Philadelphia on Sept. 2, eighty-five people took part in a 6-hour silent vigil protesting the resumption of nuclear testing. The vigil, sponsored by the Friends Peace Committee of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, was called up on 24 hours' notice following announcement by the USSR of its decision to resume tests.

Three national women's groups sent a message to President Kennedy on Sept. 1 condemning Russia's decision to resume nuclear testing and calling on the U.S. "to intensify its efforts within the UN" for an inspected ban on such tests. "The decision of the USSR," the note said, "demonstrates more clearly than ever the need for new constructive, cooperative action to protect the welfare and safety of people throughout the world."

Signers of the message were the United Church Women, the Young Women's Christian Association, and the National Council of Jewish Women.

Virginia Moves to Close CORE Institute

Officials in Fairfax County, Va., made an unsuccessful attempt last month to close the Congress of Racial Equality Interracial Action Institute meeting there. A county zoning administrator ordered the local Unitarian Church, housing the group, to evict them because their presence "violated zoning ordinances." Trustees of the church repudiated the order. "We will not ask them to leave. We are advised by our attorney that the County doesn't have a case," said a spokesman for the trustees.

Earlier, three whites and three Negroes, members of the CORE workshop, were arrested in Alexandria, Va., for participating in a lunch counter sit-in there. The six were among fifty attending the 18-action project.

Two Freedom Riders in Jackson, Miss., the first to appeal their convictions for "breach of the peace," were convicted by all-white juries last month after CORE attorneys had protested systematic exclusion of Negroes from juries. The two were sentenced to a 4-month jail term and a fine of $200 each.

A message urging President Kennedy and the U.S. Justice Department to "take immediate steps to free the Freedom Riders now jailed in Jackson, Miss.," was sent last month by the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice meeting in Detroit, Mich. In a resolution adopted at the group's second annual convention, the Catholic laymen said the riders had been unjustly confined, since they acted "entirely within their constitutional rights."

NEWS from the peace front

A 24-hour sit-down picket to block the main piers supplying the Polaris submarine base in Holy Loch, Scotland, will take place on Sept. 16. A simultaneous sea picket in motor launches will aim at completing the blockade. Over 1000 people are expected to participate in the protest.

In London on Sept. 17, the group will protest against the Polaris agreement made by Britain and the U.S. and will demand the abandonment of all policies based on mass extermination.

* * *

Max Sandin, 72-year-old Cleveland pacifist, began a hunger strike in Washington, D. C., last month, in protest against a government order halting his Social Security payments because of his tax-refusal stand. Since 1943 Sandin has filed a tax return with the statement that he refused to pay taxes because it would be a "direct contribution to war."

Sandin was sentenced to death as a CO in 1918 but was later reprieved.

* * *

Members of the American-European Walk for Peace were expected to arrive in the Soviet Union on Sept. 15 after walking over 350 miles across Poland. The team was well received in Poland, according to a spokesman for the group. Earlier, the team had been forced back by East German officials from the outskirts of Berlin, following their refusal to accept an East German mandate that they bypass the city.

The marchers, who are seeking to spread the message of unilateral disarmament, have walked over 5,150 miles since they left San Francisco on Dec. , 1960.

* * *

A statement praising peaceful integration of many schools in the South as a "dramatic demonstration of U.S. progress in improving the position of American Negroes" was made by President John F. Kennedy last month in Washington, D.C. In the message, Kennedy congratulated Little Rock, Ark., and Dallas, Texas, as well as other communities in Georgia, Florida, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee for admitting Negroes to previously all-white schools without incident. "Most of all," he said, "I would like to congratulate the children of both races for their mutual tolerance, good will and exemplary conduct."

A 3-judge Federal court in New Orleans, La., last month repudiated the state's school closing law which permitted citizens of school districts to vote to abandon public schools that were faced with desegregation orders. The law, the judges said, is constitutionally self-defeating and is a "transparent artifice" to deprive Negroes of their right to attend desegregated schools.

All three judges were from New Orleans.

* * *

Eight pacifists were released from the Montville State jail in Montville, Conn., on Aug. 25, nine days after they had been arrested for participating in a protest demonstration against the commissioning of the Polaris-armed submarine Ethan Allen in Groton, Conn. The group, including five men and three women, had been given 75-day jail sentences for refusal to pay fines for charges of "breach of the peace" and resisting arrest.

* * *

Spokesmen for the National Council of Churches and for the historic peace churches urged members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month to act quickly on legislation asked by President Kennedy to establish a permanent U.S. Disarmament agency as a branch of national government. Dr. Emile Benoit, a Columbia graduate school economics professor representing the National Council, pointed out that the present acute international tensions make serious consideration of the agency crucial. "The greater the tension," he told Senators, "the more need there is for competent, concen-

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trated attention to disarmament." Ralph Smeltzer, representing the Church of the Brethren, said that "the great nations are plunging forward in an uncontrolled arms race." "Instead of these military build-ups, providing increasing security for our own and other nations," he remarked, "there is a rapidly developing sense of insecurity and fear."

* * *

This year's Holifield committee hearings on a nuclear shelter program refused to consider any opposition witnesses, according to a report in the Aug. 12, *I.F. Stone Weekly*. The National Committee for A Sane Nuclear Policy had asked to be heard but was told by Congressman Chet Holifield (D.-Cal.) that he did not plan to call any "outside witnesses."

* * *

A conference to establish a World Peace Brigade will take place in Brummana, Lebanon, in December, it was announced last month by FOR member Michael Scott, the conference chairman. Purpose of the brigade will be to work in needy areas and deal with conflict situations using Gandhian nonviolent techniques.

Sponsors of the conference include Martin Buber, Vinoba Bhave, Kenneth Kaunda, Alan Paton and FOR members Martin Niemöller and Martin Luther King Jr.

MISSING MEMBERS

If you know the whereabouts of any of these missing members, please advise the Membership Secretary, FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

Here are the names, with last-known addresses for each: Donald E. Dart (Marshall, Mo.); R. Lowell Da Vee (Indianapolis, Ind.); Mrs. A. A. Davis (Anderson, Ind.); Edward W. Davis (Evanston, Ill.); Myra J. Davis (Evanston, Ill.); Mrs. Robert E. Davis (Webster, Wis.); Albert L. Daw (Chicago, Ill.); David R. Dawdy (Washington 6, D.C.); Rev. Albert E. Day (Bristol, Mass.); Benjamin F. Day (Channahan, Ill.); Mrs. Gertrude C. Dealy (Houston, Tex.); Rev. Kenneth G. Dean (St. Petersburg, Fla.); Beverly J. De Groat (Boston, Mass.); Rev. H. Robert DeLancey (Salt Lake City, Utah); Allen R. Desmond (Tucson, Ariz.).

LIT NOTES

Therefore Choose Life: Essays on the Nuclear Crisis is a 56-page booklet in which eight Christian writers discuss the dilemma of modern man on the brink of nuclear war and search for a solution compatible with human freedom and Christian conscience. Now available at 25¢ a copy. Order from Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sept. 23. Picnic and meeting with FOR staff for New Jersey FOR members at FOR national headquarters in Nyack, N.Y. Bring lunch. Arrive: 11:00 a.m.

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